

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 OIC-02 IO-13 ACDA-12
HA-05 /154 W

-----124042 191214Z /72

R 190830Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3633
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11264

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CG, EAID, EFIN, IT
SUBJ: BRUSSELS MEETING ON ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

REF: BRUSSELS 11764

1. EMBOFF ASHED MICHELE COSENTINO OF MFA DIRECTORATE GENERAL
FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICE (AFRICA SOUTH OF SAHARA) FOR
HIS VIEWS ON SUBJECT MEETING. COSENTINO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH
HIS OFFICE DIRECTOR, RICCARDO LEONINI, HAD NOT YET RETURNED
FROM THE MEETING, HE HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH LEONINI BY TELEPHONE.
COSENTINO MADE CLEAR THAT GOI NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE
MUCH MORE THAN LIMITED AMOUNT OF MEDICINES ON SHORT-TERM
EMERGENCY BASIS. A SMALL BILATERAL FOOD AID PROGRAM MIGHT
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BE MOUNTED BUT IT WOULD TAKE SEVEN OR EIGHT MONTHS TO GET IT
OFF THE GROUND. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, GOI WANTED TO SHOW
SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER CONTRIBUTORS AND, THEREFORE, BOTH OF
THESE SMALL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WOULD BE RECOMMENDED TO
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. NEXT STEP WOULD BE ESTABLISHMENT OF IMF PROGRAM. AT

THIS POINT, COSENTINO IDENTIFIED GOI AMONG GROUP OF COUNTRIES THAT WANTED TO SEE ZAIRE UNDERTAKE ECONOMIC REFORMS BEFORE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ADVANCED VERY FAR.

3. CASENTINO SAID LONGER TERM ITALIAN AID WOULD BE MOSTLY TECHNICAL. FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES WERE EXTREMELY LIMITED AND POSSIBILITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH MINISTRY OF TREASURY. ITALY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN PARIS CLUB MEETING ON DEBT RESCHEDULING ONCE IMF PROGRAM IN PLACE. OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, TO EXTENT AVAILABLE, WOULD BE GOVERNMENT INSURED EXPORT CREDITS WITH INTEREST SUBSIDY. COSENTINO NOTED ITALY CONSIDERED TWO PROJECTS. FIRST WAS POWER TRANSMISSION LINK FROM INGA THAT WOULD CLOSE GAP IN POWER GRID. SECOND WAS ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM IN SHABA STARTED BY ITALIANS SOME TIME AGO AND SINCE SUSPENDED (FOR UNSPECIFIED REASONS).

4. ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SIDE, GOI WAS LOOKING FOR EXPERT TO SERVE IN ZAIRE'S CENTRAL BANK UNDER IMF GUIDANCE. HE INDICATED CANDIDATE HAD BEEN FOUND IN ITALIAN MEDIUM TERM CREDIT INSTITUTION, BUT HE SAID REMAINED TO BE SEEN WHETHER CANDIDATE'S CREDENTIALS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO IMF. ONLY OTHER PROJECT MENTIONED BY COSENTINO WAS TECHNICAL HELP FOR SETTING UP AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES WHICH, HE SAID, GOZ APPEARED TO WANT VERY MUCH. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME11264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780254-1194
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780644/aaaablyt.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cef14086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 11764
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2298557
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRUSSELS MEETING ON ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, CG, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cef14086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014